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neighbor by the head, as the water snake lately referred to was caught, he goes down head first; if caught by the middle, as I once knew to be done, he is swallowed double, and in this case the swallower was but six inches longer than the swallowed. The seven red squirrels I took from the body of my black snake followed each other head first, a most positive evidence of fascination, since it is hardly possible that such unbroken succession could be the result of any other process. But the snake is not the only creature that swallows "big things." I once cut from the throat of a hawk the foot, leg, shoulders, and shoulder blade entire of a muskrat. I once took from the neck of a merganser a sucker thirteen inches long whose head girth was double that of the duck. I cut from the throat of a heron a chicken as large as a woodcock, and sat almost an hour as "crowner's quest" before it got through my thick skull what those soft yellow feet and bill belonged to. This capacity for extension is common among birds and reptiles, owing to the flexibility of the posterior connection of jaws or mandibles, they being held together by muscular contraction, and not by articular joints as in mammals; distention does not produce dislocation.—*B. Horsford in Forest and Stream.*

BATTLE OF RAVENS.—The *Frankfurt* (Germany) *Journal* writes: The gardener, Mr. Georgius, from Ginnheim, called at our office to-day with a chest full of dead ravens, victims of a battle which was fought high in the air among a flock of over four hundred of these birds near the above-mentioned village. The ravens formed together into three detachments, and as if at a given signal flew at each other, and with savage cries seemed as if they would tear each other's eyes out or their heads off with their beaks. The ground was soon covered with the bodies of over fifty birds, which were picked up by observers. Wounds on other parts of the body except the head could not be found. The blows on the head appeared on close observation to have been given with such force that one was sufficient to destroy life. The cause of the battle was doubtless the fact that the pairing season of the birds was near at hand. Not only the males but also the females participated in the fight, as bodies of the latter were found among the slain.

#### ANTHROPOLOGY.<sup>1</sup>

THE SOCIETY OF AMERICANISTS.—The Congrès International des Américanistes will be held in Copenhagen, 21–24 August, under the patronage of Christian IX. Letters should be addressed to M. W. A. Carstensen, general secretary. All persons interested in early American history, by paying twelve francs, may become members, and will receive the published volume. The sum should be remitted to M. Tietgen, directeur de la Banque privée

<sup>1</sup>Edited by Professor OTIS T. MASON, 1305 Q street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

de Copenhagen. The programme includes the following subjects :

#### HISTORY AND GEOLOGY.

The discovery of N. America by European navigators.  
 The colonization of Greenland by the Northmen.  
 Mexican Calpullis, their administration and communism  
 Central American nationalities previous to the Aztec invasion.  
 Military systems of Mexico and Peru before the conquest.  
 Critical examination of the Popol Vuh.  
 Comparison of the kingdoms of Cezco, Trujillo and Quito, as to their religion, legislation, language, architecture, manners, &c.  
 Catalogue of ancient Peruvian divinities.  
 Migrations of the Carib race and their limits in S. America.

#### ARCHÆOLOGY.

Kjokkenmoddings in Greenland and other parts of America.  
 Sacred symbols found in America.  
 Religious and emblematic value of different types of idols, &c., in Peru.  
 Classification of the monuments of Peru.

#### ANTHROPOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY.

Nomenclature of the peoples of America before the conquest.  
 The kingdoms of Cibola, Quivira and Tegnayo.  
 The tribes of New Granada and the Isthmus of Panama.  
 The aborigines of N. America and of Western Asia compared.

#### LINGUISTICS AND PALÆOGRAPHY.

Eskimo language compared with Indian languages.  
 Mexican compared with languages outside that region.  
 Decipherment of Maya inscriptions.  
 Quippus in relation to ancient forms of writing.  
 Peruvian languages on the coast and in the mountains compared.

**THE SOCIÉTÉ D'ETHNOGRAPHIE.**—In the excitement of present prosperity we must not forget the pioneers of our science. The Société d'Ethnographie of Paris has just celebrated its twenty-fourth anniversary. Its history may be briefly indicated :

Société d'Ethnographie Américaine et Orientale, founded 14th March, 1859, incorporated 26th April.

Société d'Ethnographie, this title assumed and recognized by the government 28th September, 1864.

The society took part in the Exposition Universelle de Paris, 1867 ; Congrès international des sciences Ethnographiques, under the patronage of the government, 1878.

The society founded the Institution Ethnographique, 1879.

The society recognized as an institution of public utility, 1880. The general secretary is M. Leon de Rosny.

**FOLK LORE.**—The folk tales of a people are to sociology what myths are to religion and stone implements to the history of technology. Societies for the collection of these tales and rhymes exist in various places, but the most active among them is the Folk Lore Society of London. The publications are as follows :

1878. The Folk Lore Record, Vol. I. (For members only.)

1879. Notes on the Folk Lore of the northern counties of England and the borders.

The Folk Lore Record, Vol. II. (For members only.)

1880. Aubrey's Remains of Gentilisme and Judaisme, with the additions.  
The Folk Lore Record, Vol. III, Pts. I and II.
1881. Notes on the Folk Lore of the northeast of Scotland.  
The Folk Lore Record, Vol. IV.
1882. The Folk Lore Record, Vol. V.  
Researches respecting the book of Sindibad.  
Portuguese Folk Lore.
1883. Folk Medicine.  
Folk Lore Journal. Issued Monthly. Vol. I, part V, issued in May. Price  
18 pence per number.

Address G. Laurence Gomme, F.S.A, 2 Park Villas, Lonsdale road, Barnes, S. W. London, England.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LYONS.—The Anthropological Society of Paris occupies such a prominent position among the students of humanity, that other brilliant workers in the republic are overlooked. All the world have heard of Chantre, Faure, Guimet, Julien, Lacassagne, Lortet and Secard, founders of the Société d'Anthropologie de Lyon, in 1881. The first volume of the Bulletin covers the years 1881 and 1882.

THE TRENTON GRAVELS.—Dr. C. C. Abbott has contributed to the Boston Society of Natural History the result of a new find in the Trenton gravels (XXII, Oct. 18, 1882). In consequence of the removal of many thousands of yards of the gravel by the P. R. R. Co., there has been an extensive exposure of this deposit, showing that there have been breaks in the process of accumulation, strata of sand alternating with accumulations of coarser material. One sand stratum, one foot deep and three hundred yards along the exposure, furnished five argillite implements. The author supposes them to have been left by the ancient man on this little sandy island and subsequently covered by a gravel-bearing flood to the depth of seven feet. In the following pages mention is made of further discoveries of flint implements; and also, most wonderful of all, of a human wisdom tooth taken from the undisturbed gravel nearly fourteen feet under the surface.

LECTURES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.—Dr. E. B. Tylor delivered two lectures on anthropology at Oxford, February 15th and 21st, the first of which is reported in *Nature* of May 3d. There is no European anthropologist more popular in our country than Dr. Tylor, and for this reason a few of his salient utterances are quoted without comment:

"The processes of development, or evolution, or transformism, were long ago recognized to no small extent by ethnologists. Prichard, the leader of the monogenist school forty years ago, brought forward evidence of the derivation of the races of mankind from one original ancestral pair, whom he considered to have been negroes, whose descendants, more or less varying by the operation of natural causes, became modified or transformed into the several races adapted for life in the various climates of the earth.

"The discovery that men were already making rude flint implements in the Quaternary period has made a new scientific departure, placing primeval man in the hands of the geologists." To cross the border into the animal kingdom, and to see how one species is transformed into another, we have only to look at Huxley's series of horses: "Zoölogists, thus enabled to reconstruct ideally the ancestry of the horse, are hopeful some day to discover likewise the fossil pedigree of the rider.

"Anthropologists do not feel, therefore, that their science has been plucked up by the roots and planted somewhere else; it is growing where it is only cultivated higher than in old times."

Dr. Tylor next discusses craniology, and shows what is its true place in anthropology. The vexed question of philology, and its credibility as a witness of blood relationship is very cautiously handled. Regarding the hair, Dr. Tylor says: "The cross section of a single hair examined microscopically by Pruner's method shows it circular, oval, or reniform; its follicle-curvature may be estimated by the average diameter of the curls as proposed by Moseley; its coloring matter may be estimated by Sorby's method. The wonder is that a single bodily character should form a basis for rationally mapping out the divisions of mankind. It is now well understood that the causes of race color are not so simple as Hippocrates thought when he described the nomad Scythians as burned tawny by cold." The effect of inheritable albinism, Addison's disease, town life and other social changes, acclimating, Draper's law, and other known forces in bringing about permanent change of type is well worked out by the lecturer.

The closing part of the discourse is devoted to the development of civilization, survivals, etc. On the latter point attempt was made to offer examples of a mental state yet surviving among savages and peasants, which may have its origin in the very childhood of mankind. The notion is also advanced that the origin of races is to be sought, like the origin of domestic plants, in those regions where they are wild. Thus the negro race originated not in Africa but in Andaman and New Guinea, where the people have no fire drill, but carry about brands from place to place, and kindle new fires from their volcanoes. In like manner the origin of the civilization of the Aryan through those represented by the Egyptian and the Chinese is traced.

#### MICROSCOPY.<sup>1</sup>

ROSE BENGALE IN COMBINATION WITH IODINE GREEN AND BLEU DE LYON.—Rose bengale, according to Griesbach,<sup>2</sup> is the bluest of the eosine dyes. An aqueous solution is very useful in staining chromic acid preparations of the spinal cord, as it colors the gray substance much more strongly than the white substance.

<sup>1</sup> Edited by Dr. C. O. WHITMAN, Newton Highlands, Mass.

<sup>2</sup> *Zool. Anzeiger*, VI, No. 135, p. 172.